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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/422,067	10/21/1999	DAVID M. BAPST	044321-0247	5022

9629 7590 02/21/2002

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EXAMINER

WHITE, RODNEY BARNETT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3636

DATE MAILED: 02/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Byars 2/20

8K

Supplemental
Notice of Allowability

Application No. 09/422,067	Applicant(s) David M. Bapst
Examiner Rodney B. White	Art Unit 3636

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the Interview and FAX on 2/19/02
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 23-24, 7-13, 25-26, 14-16, 27-28, and 17-22, renumbered 1-28 respectively
3. The drawings filed on Dec 17, 2001 are acceptable as formal drawings.
4. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

6. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>13</u>
5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s). _____	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James L. Reed (#43,877) on 2/19/02.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 5, line 26, as numbered by the Applicant, the following descriptions of Fig. 14G and Fig. 14H have been inserted.

C1
-- Fig. 14G is a side view of a strap stiffener removed from the adjustable handle according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 14H is a sectional view taken along line 14H-14H in Fig. 14G.--

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner White whose telephone number is (703) 308-2276.

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Rodney B. White,
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3636
February 19, 2002



Peter M. Cuomo
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600